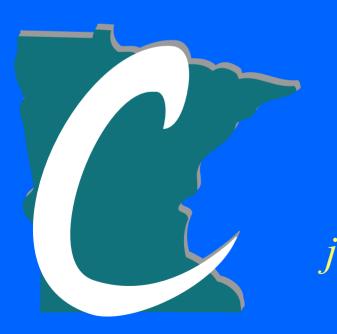
# MinnesotaDepartment of Commerce

#### Distributed Generation in Minnesota



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#### Minnesota's Energy

- Minnesota has no "traditional" indigenous energy resources
- Minnesotans spend \$9,000,000,000 each year on energy
- Most energy dollars leave the local economies as payments for energy bills.



## Utilizing Minnesota's Resources

- Minnesota currently has the 4th greatest amount of operating wind capacity in the nation
- St. Paul District Energy is a national model
- We have a wealth of biomass resources that are mostly underutilized



#### Technology

- Microturbines
- Reciprocating Engines
- Fuel Cells
- Wind Turbines
- Photovoltaics

- Capital cost reductions are key to full acceptance of the technology.
- Competition is increasing
- Incentives being developed



#### Niche Markets

- Hotels
- Hospitals
- Greenhouses (CO<sub>2</sub>)
- Grid constraints
- Reliability concerns
- High outage costs

- Solar
- Wind
- Biomass
- Landfill gas



#### Current Realities

#### Electricity is Cheap

- MN is below the national average cost
- MN is not deregulated

#### Natural Gas is Volatile

- Considerable increases in the amount of natural gas generated electricity
- February 2003
- Spikes are not limited to the winter



#### Current Realities

- We have the grid of a third world country.
  - Spencer AbrahamSecretary of Energy

• Terrorism concern

 Lack of high quality grid-independent power.



## Meeting the Needs of the Market

Customer sophistication is increasing

Reliability - The cost of downtime

Power Quality

Resource utilization



### DG Opportunities



- Waste Products
- Steam Pressure Reduction
- Coincident electrical and thermal loads
- Downtime avoidance



## Legislative Initiative

- The MN PUC initiated working groups on August 20, 2001 to establish generic standards for utility tariffs for interconnection and operation of distributed generation.
- This order was in compliance with Minnesota Statute 216b.1611, subd. 2



## DG Technical Working Group

... draft documents and guidelines for tariffs so that a person interested in developing distributed generation can apply for interconnection to any electric utility in the state with the expectation that the requirements for making interconnection -



## DG Technical Working Group

- 1) are uniform across electric utilities,
- 2) are clear, concise, understandable and easy to follow,
- 3) impose obligations only if they are reasonably necessary for the safety of persons and equipment or for the reliable operation of the electric distribution system,



## DG Technical Working Group

- 4) require no more than the minimum studies necessary for the safe and reliable interconnection of the unit with the electric distribution system, and
- 5) provide for conducting any necessary studies quickly and efficiently.



### DG Rate Working Group

The Rate Work Group shall draft documents and guidelines for tariffs so that a person interested in developing distributed generation can apply for interconnection to any electric utility in the state with the expectation that:



## DG Rate Working Group

- 1) prices for electric service provided by the electric utility to the generator including supplemental, maintenance, and backup power services will be reasonable and non-discriminatory; and
- 2) prices charged for power supplied by the generator to the electric utility will reflect the value of the power to the utility.



## DG Working Groups

- PUC order charged the Department of Commerce with establishing two working groups.
  - Rates
  - Technical Interconnection

• Goal of establishing generic interconnection standards for all MN utilities.



#### Principles of the Rate Group

Setting rates for services provided by DG customers to utilities:

Rates should reflect the value of the distributed generation to the utility, including any reasonable credits for emissions or for costs avoided on the generation, transmission and/or distribution system.



#### Principles of the Rate Group

Setting rates for energy and capacity purchased from DG facilities:

Rates should reflect the costs the utility expects to avoid. To the extent practical, these costs should reflect seasonal and peak/off peak differences in costs.



## Outcome of the Working Groups

www.newrules.org/dgtariff

• The issue is still open for comment

• The PUC could make a final decision late this summer



#### CIP

# Utility CIP Spending Allowances Utilities *shall* spend 5% on *cost effective*distributed generation projects

Demonstration & Experience

"Turf" issues



#### Environmental Review

• Depending on the size of the facility either an Environmental Assessment Worksheet or an Environmental Impact Statement may have to be prepared.

• Any cogeneration facility less than 5 MW is exempted from environmental review.



#### Future DG Activities

- Demonstrations will continue
  - Fuel Cells
  - Landfill Gas
  - CHP
- Greater acceptance as the technology matures



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#### Thank You



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